

MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP
OPEN SPACE & FARMLAND PRESERVATION COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes for Thursday, March 23, 2017
215 Millstone Road, Millstone Twp, NJ 08535

Ms. Morelli called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.

The Secretary read the Adequate Notice.

Roll Call

Present: (7) Asprocolas, Butch, Grbelja, Morelli, Oxley, Scott, Siedman

Absent: (3) Denardo, Lenzo, Marra

Presentation: Ms. Morelli introduced Mr. Ken Thoman, Park Resource Manager with the Monmouth County Park System. Mr. Thoman provided an informative presentation on the park system's land stewardship and natural resource and invasive species management programs. The presentation was recorded and will be posted on the Township's PEG channel as well as the Council's webpage.

Public Comment: Opened and closed at 8:49 PM with no public in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

A Motion to approve the February 23, 2017, minutes was made by Ms. Scott with a Second offered by Ms. Siedman. Roll call vote:

AYES: (6) Scott, Siedman, Butch, Grbelja, Morelli, Oxley

NAYS: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

Correspondence

- Letter from SADC dated 3/7/17 re: Grant Funding for Deer Fencing on Preserved Farms - Correction. Emailed to Council members on 3/7/17. The letter clarifies that the applicant must be the owner and operator of the farm. Council members discussed the regulations and oversight attached to the funding. Ms. Morelli made a Motion with a Second offered by C/Grbelja, and all in favor, to coordinate with the Ag Council to forward comments to the SADC regarding the grant program regulations and oversight.

Old Business

- ***Monmouth County Municipal Open Space Grant #12-04, Baird Homestead Development Project:*** The project is complete and the paperwork for grant reimbursement will be submitted after the windmill is erected. The grant deadline has been extended to September 2017.
- ***Monmouth County Municipal Open Space Grant #14-12, Millstone Park Phase 1 Development:*** The grading work has begun. Modifications to the original plan must be sent to the County for approval.
- ***Monmouth County Municipal Open Space Grant #15-03, Historic ME Church:*** The project is expected to be completed by June of 2017. Ms. Butch explained that the first event to be held at the church will be a time capsule and asked Council members to consider contributing something to the time capsule.
- ***List of Accomplishments for 2016 & Council Goals for 2017:*** The lists of 2016 accomplishments and goals for 2017 were finalized at the February meeting. Copies of the finalized lists were distributed to Council members.
- ***Committee Assignments:*** Ms. Morelli compiled the committee choice forms that were submitted by council members and assigned members to each committee. The committee assignment list was distributed to Council members.

New Business

- **Municipal Open Space Stewardship:** All Council members who will be stewarding properties need to obtain and wear a Township identification badge when conducting site visits. Letters will be mailed, at least two weeks in advance of the site visit, to residents who live adjacent to the open space properties being stewarded. The White Birch open space property will be the first property to be visited. A tentative date of Saturday, April 29th, with a back-up date of May 6th, was set for the White Birch site visit. Stewardship site visits will be limited to four Council members.
- **Budget for 2017:** C/Grbelja will confirm that the requested budget for education and the newsletters has been re-instated and approved.
- **Newsletter:** Ms. Butch is working on two articles: one on the trails and the County's trail team training program and another about the preserved Kaut Farm. C/Grbelja will provide two articles: one on the bald eagle and another about the background of Millstone. A target date of May 1st was set to complete the newsletter.
- **Clambake / Fundraising:** Mr. Asprocolas will contact Mr. Denardo and a decision regarding the event will be made by March 31. Ms. Morelli asked Council members to bring ideas for other fundraisers to the next meeting.

Events

- **Annual New Jersey Land Conservation Rally:** Ms. Morelli, Ms. Oxley, Ms. Scott and the Secretary attended the rally. Ms. Oxley presented and discussed handouts from the farmland preservation and green acres workshops. The Secretary will copy the handouts and distribute to the Council.

Committee Reports

- **Finance:** C/Grbelja discussed the Burnt Tavern Meadows acquisition and explained that expenses erroneously charged to the open space trust will be rectified. Going forward, C/Grbelja will be signing off on all expenses charged to the open space trust.
- **Fundraising:** Discussed under New Business.
- **Stewardship:** Ms. Siedman discussed stewarding open space properties on Perrineville Road with a small group of boy scouts and provided the Council with the status of the open space areas and trails. The scouts collected 6 large bags of litter from the area and the trails are overgrown. Thank you letters were sent to the boy scout volunteers. Ms. Siedman will be taking another small group out within the next few weeks.
- All other committee reports were tabled.

At 9:56 PM, a Motion to move to executive session was made by Ms. Butch with a Second offered by Mr. Asprocolas. The Secretary read the resolution. Roll call vote:

AYES: (7) Butch, Asprocolas, Grbelja, Morelli, Oxley, Scott, Siedman

NAYS: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

At 10:40 PM the Council returned to regular session. Mr. Asprocolas made a Motion with a Second offered by Ms. Morelli to recommend to the Township Committee that the farm discussed during executive session as a good candidate for farmland preservation. Roll call vote:

AYES: (7) Asprocolas, Morelli, Butch, Grbelja, Oxley, Scott, Siedman

NAYS: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

Having no further business to discuss, a Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Asprocolas with a Second offered by C/Grbelja and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 10:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Maher
Council Secretary